

COHORT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A WALK THROUGH TOWN:

DOMINICAN

**SPACES & PUBLIC
FIGURES OF STATURE**

ABOUT THE ZINE PROJECT

Our excursion to Washington Heights started at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute (DSI), which is housed in The City College of New York located at West 138th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The DSI's main focus is on research, record keeping, and archives about Dominicans and the Dominican Republic. Its library has a very intimate and concrete process of record keeping. The Institute calls attention to the idea that Dominicans in the United States are new immigrants with an individual Latinx identity. This position is reinforced with works of art that celebrate and promote Dominican history and identity.



JUAN PABLO DUARTE

BORN: 01/26/1813

DIED: 07/15/1876

Juan Pablo Duarte was a Dominican military leader, writer, activist, and nationalist politician who was the foremost of the founding fathers of the Dominican Republic and bears the title of Father of the Nation.

Juan Pablo Duarte was known as the father of Dominican independence. Duarte was sent to Europe for his scholastic education which lasted for a period of (1828 – 1833) Following his education Duarte returned to Haiti to work towards independence and stimulate liberalism.



ILKA TANYA PAYÁN

BORN: 01/07/1943

DIED: 04/06/1996

Ms. Payán was a Dominican – born actress and attorney who later became a prominent HIV/AIDS in the United States; Payán completed her law education and began practicing immigration law. As an actress she worked hard to encourage New York's Latino theater community. After an entanglement involving her maiden family Payán disclosed she had AIDS to the public in 1993.



THE ILKA PAYAN PARK



Located on Edward Morgan Place and Broadway between West 156 Street and West 157 Street in Manhattan (New York), the Ilka Payan Park memorializes this Dominican-born actress and HIV-AIDS activist Ilka Tanya Payan who impacted the lives of many people in the United States. Born in Santo Domingo, Payan immigrated to the United States and settled in New York. The park symbolizes a safe space where the community is afforded the opportunity to negotiate politics and converse about their collective interests. For many residents, the park is a hotspot to get some respite and refresh after a long workday.

JUAN RODRÍGUEZ

WAS BORN IN SANTO DOMINGO AROUND THE 15TH CENTURY

For being the first non indigenous person to live in the island of Manhattan; He was born in Santo Domingo to an African woman and a Portuguese sailor. Through the place, the majority of people on Santo Domingo were black or mixed race. Rodriguez was known for his talents and was hired by the Dutch captain of the Jonge Tobias to serve as a translator on a trading voyage to the Native American island of Manhattan. Based on the article, He arrived in lower Manhattan in 1613. It happened twelve years before the Dutch colonists found New Amsterdam and 51 years before the English took control of the colony. They renamed it New York.



JUAN RODRIGUEZ WAY



A very prominent figure in Dominican history. Juan Rodriguez was best recognized for leading the first European which led to the discovery of San Diego Bay. Juan Rodriguez's blueprint is what future Spanish explorers used to navigate the Pacific Ocean. Although he did not accomplish the rich cities as expected on his voyage the land he did find would be profitable for Spain in the years passed his death.

THE MIRABAL SISTERS

MARIA MIRABAL : 3/12/1926 - 11/25/1960

BELGICA MIRABAL : 3/1/1926 - 2/1/2014

PATRIA MIRABAL: 2/27/1924 - 11/25/1960

The Mirabal sisters helped to organize and grow the underground movement challenging the current regime. They were repeatedly arrested for their activities. The Sisters are also known for fighting for what is theirs and constantly trying to take down criminals like Trujillo.

The sisters' primary goal was to oppose Trujillo's regime. They informed the public about Trujillo's crimes and openly spoke about the injustices committed under his ruling. On the 25th of November in 1960 some henchmen, following the orders of Trujillo, killed them savagely and brutally. It is important to note the sisters basically showed a lot of what Trujillo has been doing throughout his criminal life.

THE MIRABAL SISTERS SCHOOL MS 324 - PATRIA MIRABAL SCHOOL



We visited the Mirabal Sisters School, which is a middle school in Washington Heights renamed after three Mirabal sisters, Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa who opposed the dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina who ruled the Dominican Republic from 1930 to 1961. The sisters were tragically murdered in 1961 by Trujillo for speaking out against his dictatorship and for attempts at a coup to overthrow him. The Mirabal sisters became the symbols of feminist resistance in the Dominican Republic. Their courage demonstrates the power of persistence in fighting injustice.

In collaboration with The Children's Aid Society, the Mirabal Sisters Campus opened its doors in 1994 as a community school focused on empowering the youth through its stresses on student education and community involvement within Washington Heights. Under its original name I.S. 90, the campus was divided into three middle sections: M.S. 319, M.S., and M.S. 324. Former principal Janet Heller began referring to the three sections as the names of the three Mirabal sisters in 2001, where M.S. 319 became known as Maria Teresa Middle School, M.S. became Minerva Middle School, and M.S. 324 became Patria Middle School. However, it was not until 2004 that Chancellor Klein officially separated the sections and acknowledged the name change of this institution. Since the renaming, Dedé Mirabal—the sole surviving sister of the Mirabal Sisters—has visited the institution.

THE GREGORIO LUPERON HIGH SCHOOL

Located at 501 W 165th St, New York, NY 10032, the Gregorio Luperon High School was founded in 1992 as a transitional program for new arrivals or English-language-learners (ELLs) in Washington Heights. The school provides a comprehensive education that prioritizes inquiry among ELLs in the area.



NORMANDÍA MALDONADO

FEBRUARY 21, 1929 – FEBRUARY 7, 2018

Best known for her work as a dancer, teacher, and community activist; the founder of Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya and cofounder of Club Cívico y Cultural Juan Pablo Duarte

Arriving to the United States in 1960 as a member of the cast “Busquen A Ese Hombre” (a Cuban film produced by the Caribbean Theatrical Alliance) two things were certain to Maldonado. She was ready to leave the acting world and wanted to permanently live in the United States. It was here, in New York City specifically, that she thrived in her career as a dancer, teacher, and community activist. Following the formation of the group Mambo Girls with her sister Marina in 1962, she traveled around the world sharing the beauties of Dominican heritage through dance and music. They would later adopt the name Ballet Quisqueya, which would later become Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya. Here at this center, Maldonado would “educate Dominicans, in particular the second generation and other nationalities about the various musical rhythms and the rich cultural heritage of the Dominican people.” Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya continues to be a site today where Dominicans, and everyone, can learn about the rich cultural heritage of the Dominican Republic.

FLOR MARIA MIOLAN

BORN: FEBRUARY 22, 1988

DIED: DECEMBER 7, 2015

She provided “Safe Haven” before current “Safe Haven Laws” were enacted; raised over 100 children in total from Washington Heights; known as “Mami Flor”;

Born in Dajabón, Dominican Republic, Flor Maria Miolan fled the country in 1962 in search of safety from the gangs under the dictatorship of Rafael Leónidas Trujillo Molina. The Trujillo regime targeted the Miolans, and Flor Miolan specifically, for speaking out about the previous dictator’s cruelty against children and massacres of the Haitian people. Once finding stability in New York City, Miolan would continue to be an advocate for the safety of children. She provided a safe haven for children with special needs, following the revelation of her youngest daughter’s diagnosis of Down’s syndrome. Miolan would raise over 100 children in total throughout her life prompting the nickname “Mami Flor” as she was revered as everyone’s mother. For every child, she offered them unconditional love, shelter, food, and support, thus offering us, through her actions, a prime example of how to care and support those in your community.

JUAN BOSCH

BORN: JUNE 30TH, 1909

DIED: NOVEMBER 1ST, 2001

Mr. Bosch was a politician, historian, writer, essayist, and educator;

Mr. Bosch was the first democratically elected President in the Dominican Republic. Part of the opposition “tyrannical regime of General Rafael Trujillo” in which he got the motivation to start the Partido Revolucionario Dominicano (PRD), the popularity of his party led him to the presidency.



CARLOS A. COOKS

BORN: JUNE 23RD, 1913

DIED: MAY 5TH, 1966

Leading figure in Marcus Garvey's Pan African movement;

Carlos A. Cooks, born in the Dominican Republic in 1913, was a leading figure in Marcus Garvey's Pan African movement. Cooks delivered many inspiring talks to promote the movement, and he advocated for economic autonomy among people of color through the "Buy Black" movement in the United States. Cooks also participated in the Black Liberation Movement and inspired thousands to join the African struggle for self-determination. He died in New York in 1966.



WORKS CITED LINKED

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